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## Let's Have a Dunking Party

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Let's Have

## A Dunking Party

By Louise Petersen

**W**HEN old Dad West Wind and Dan Frost get together and co-operate as only those two can, there's just one result. Gorgeous, isn't it? Did you catch that whiff of chilly, crisp air with that unmistakable autumn tang of burning leaves and ripened apples when you rolled out of bed this morning?

After one last yawn and a diligent search for an elusive woolly bedroom slipper to arrest that shadow of a shiver, you remember it's only three days till Thanksgiving. But before that tight throaty feeling takes its toll of a big tear, Dad West Wind rushes in to the rescue and sets you scrambling for that russet brushed wool sweater, and in a twinkling a delightful thrill trickles up your spine. Thanksgiving!

A big week-end ahead with room for something else besides stuffed turkey and steamed cranberry pudding looms up. By cramming those days full of activity and excitement, all planned beforehand, it'll be much easier to escape that sinking feeling that's pretty apt to take possession about the time you sit down to Thanksgiving dinner without your family. Somewhere in the whirl of events there's most likely a fireside or party scheduled. Why not make it something extra-extra-special—one that will rate four lines in your diary and a vibrant red circle on your calendar?

Some firesides seem to be just naturally and inherently successful. Others seem doomed to fade right out into nothingness and, after a few weeks, into complete oblivion. Let's peek at the secret of that memorable one when everyone had a "simply perfect" time. There's just one reason. Informality. It does wonders, doesn't it? Laughter, gaiety, friendliness—so easy to attain

of gold and scarlet that have become a part of the fall wardrobe of the oaks and maples of the North Woods. Pine branches arranged rather casually around the windows and fireplace lend an inviting aroma and warmth to the occasion and form a soft background to set off those vivid oak and maple leaves.

But above all—even before the decorations—let's remember to have some burning logs in the fireplace. Surprising, isn't it, how easily informality is achieved by a glowing log or two? And after all, what's a fireplace without a fire?

And now for the actual dunking part of our party. Lay a rather small table with a crisp tan or brown lunch cloth. A pumpkin shell on sprays of gay



leaves interspersed with pine makes an interesting centerpiece. Occasional leaves loosely dotting the table between the dishes of food or forming little paths to the edge of the table will produce a delightfully casual effect.

For refreshments let's have rye-crisp wafers dunked in melted butter and then in a sugar-cinnamon mixture of five parts of sugar to one part of cinnamon. Crisp and sweet—you'll love them. And as for informality—there's nothing that can run them even a close second—unless it's the old favorite of doughnuts dunked in apple cider. You'll want coffee for those who favor the Sugared Crispies, and apple cider for the doughnut-dunkers.

Simple, exciting, and oh! so friendly—to laugh and chat with the others over those luscious crispies and coffee in the dancing shadows of the log fire. And when the last half hour chimes out, you'll sigh to think of its being over so soon, and breathe a little prayer of thanks for such a "perfect" time.



when informality is at the core of the activity.

Why not have a Dunking Party?

Let it be gay and colorful—done up in bright fall colors. The house decorations needn't be elaborate or expensive to be inviting and cheerful. Just include a few of those gorgeous splashes